

authorize incidental take (*i.e.*, take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity). Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened species are found in 50 CFR 17.32.

The Applicant proposes to replace an existing 300,000-gallon reservoir with a 4-million gallon reservoir on 2.7 acres. The project site is located approximately one-quarter mile west of Harley John Road, two-thirds of a mile north of Cajalco Road, one-half mile east of El Sobrante Road, and one-quarter mile south of Scottsdale Drive, in Riverside County, California. The existing water tank has been in use for approximately 40 years. The project site occurs at the northern periphery of the Lake Mathews Estelle Mountain Reserve. Rural residences and orchards exist southeast of the site. The project site contains and is adjacent to gnatcatcher habitat within the Lake Mathews region. The project site does not occur within gnatcatcher proposed critical habitat.

One pair of gnatcatchers and a juvenile were detected during surveys conducted according to Service protocol in 1994, 1999, and 2000. Based on these survey results, the Service concluded that implementation of the proposed project will likely result in take of one pair of gnatcatchers through the permanent removal of 2.3 acres of vegetation on the 2.7-acre site.

The federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) was not detected on the project site during a survey conducted in 1999. The federally endangered Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*) may occupy portions of the proposed project site; however, no Stephens' kangaroo rat surveys have been conducted at the project site. Because the proposed project site occurs within the plan area boundary of the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat in Western Riverside County, California (March 1996), compliance with this Plan and its associated implementation agreement will be required prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

To mitigate take of gnatcatchers on the project site, the Applicant proposes to purchase 7 credits towards conservation in perpetuity of 7 acres of gnatcatcher habitat, composed of riversidean sage scrub vegetation, from an off-site conservation bank in western Riverside County. The conservation bank collects fees supporting a management endowment to ensure the permanent management and monitoring of sensitive species and habitats,

including the gnatcatcher, within the area protected by the bank.

Although not reflected in the HCP and Implementing Agreement available for public comment, we anticipate that the conservation bank landowner and land manager will be signatories to the Agreement, committing to the protection, management, and monitoring of the conservation bank lands to conserve riversidean sage scrub habitat and gnatcatchers in perpetuity.

The Service's Environmental Assessment considers the environmental consequences of two alternatives, including: (1) The Proposed Project Alternative, which consists of issuance of the incidental take permit and implementation of the HCP and Implementing Agreement; and (2) the No Action Alternative, which consists of no permit issuance and no replacement of the reservoir at this time. The alternative to the Proposed Project Alternative would result in less long-term conservation for the gnatcatcher within western Riverside County, as it would not contribute as much, or at all, to conservation of areas within habitat being considered by the Service and local agencies for long-term conservation of the species.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and the regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments that we receive, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public. We will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of the Act. If we determine that those requirements are met, we will issue a permit to the Applicant for the incidental take of the gnatcatcher. We will make our final permit decision no sooner than 60 days after the date of this notice.

Dated: May 14, 2003.

Ken McDermond,

Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-260-09-1060-00-24 1A]

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands.

DATES: The Advisory Board will meet Monday, June 16, 2003, from 8 a.m., to 5 p.m., local time, and on Tuesday, June 17, 2003, from 8 a.m., to 3 p.m., local time.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Board will meet at the Sheraton Billings Hotel, 27 N. 27th Street, Billings, MT, phone 406-252-7400.

Written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO 260, Attention: Ramona Delorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147. Submit written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting no later than close of business June 6, 2003. *See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION* section for electronic access and filing address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Nordin, Wild Horse and Burro Public Outreach Specialist, 775-861-6583. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. Nordin at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Meeting

Under the authority of 43 CFR part 1784, the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advises the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the BLM, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Chief, Forest Service, on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands. The tentative agenda for the meeting is:

Monday, June 16, 2003 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

8 a.m.—Call to Order & Introductions:
8:15 a.m.—Old Business:
8:45 a.m.—Program Update
9 a.m.—Status of WH&B Strategic Plan
9:30 a.m.—Break

9:45 a.m.—Old Business (continued):
 10:45 a.m.—Report on “Reaching AML
 by 2005: A Mid-Course Review
 12:30 p.m.—Lunch
 1:30 p.m.—Old Business (continued):
 2:30 p.m.—Break
 2:45 p.m.—Old Business (continued):
 4 p.m.—Public Comments
 4:45 p.m.—Recap/Summary
 5–6 p.m.—Adjourn: Roundtable
 Discussion

Tuesday, June 17, 2003 (8 a.m.–3 p.m.)

8 a.m.—New Business:
 Break—(9:45 a.m.–10 a.m.)
 10 a.m.—Organizational Discussion on
 Advisory Board Hosted Symposium
 12 p.m.—Lunch
 1 p.m.—Board Recommendations
 2:30 p.m.—Next Meeting/Date/Site
 3 p.m.—Adjourn

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability needing an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting, such as interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format, must notify the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the BLM will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

The Federal advisory committee management regulations [41 CFR 101–6.1015(b),] require BLM to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of a meeting 15 days prior to the meeting date.

II. Public Comment Procedures

Members of the public may make oral statements to the Advisory Board on June 16, 2003, at the appropriate point in the agenda. This opportunity is anticipated to occur at 4 p.m., local time. Persons wishing to make statements should register with the BLM by noon June 16, 2003, at the meeting location. Depending on the number of speakers, the Advisory Board may limit the length of presentations. At previous meetings, presentations have been limited to three minutes in length. Speakers should address the specific wild horse and burro-related topics listed on the agenda. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section or bring a written copy to the meeting.

Participation in the Advisory Board meeting is not a prerequisite for submission of written comments. The BLM invites written comments from all interested parties. Your written comments should be specific and

explain the reason for any recommendation. The BLM appreciates any and all comments, but those most useful and likely to influence decisions on management and protection of wild horses and burros are those that are either supported by quantitative information or studies or those that include citations to and analysis of applicable laws and regulations. Except for comments provided in electronic format, speakers should submit two copies of their written comments where feasible. The BLM will not necessarily consider comments received after the time indicated under the **DATES** section or at locations other than that listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

In the event there is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for a copy of your comments, the BLM will make them available in their entirety, including your name and address. However, if you do not want the BLM to release your name and address in response to a FOIA request, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. The BLM will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. The BLM will release all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, in their entirety, including names and addresses.

Electronic Access and Filing Address

Speakers may transmit comments electronically via the Internet to: *Janet_Nordin@blm.gov*. Please include the identifier “WH&B” in the subject of your message and your name and address in the body of your message.

Dated: May 15, 2003.

Bud Cribley,

Acting Deputy Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of an information collection (1010–0041).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

(PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to OMB an information collection request (ICR) to renew approval of the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR 250, Subpart K, “Oil and Gas Production Rates.” This notice also provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of these regulatory requirements.

DATES: Submit written comments by June 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (1010–0041), 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. Mail or hand-carry a copy of your comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Processing Team; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170–4817. If you wish to e-mail your comments to MMS, the address is: *rules.comments@MMS.gov*. Reference Information Collection 1010–0041 in your subject line and mark your message for return receipt. Include your name and return address in your message text.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arlene Bajusz, Rules Processing Team, telephone (703) 787–1600. You may also contact Arlene Bajusz to obtain a copy, at no cost, of the regulations that require the subject collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR 250, Subpart K, Oil and Gas Production Rates.

OMB Control Number: 1010–0041.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*, gives the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) the responsibility to preserve, protect, and develop oil and gas resources in the OCS, consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation’s energy needs as rapidly as possible; balance orderly energy resource development with protection of the human, marine, and coastal environments; ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and preserve and maintain free enterprise competition. Section 1334(g)(2) states “ * * * the lessee shall produce such oil or gas, or both, at rates * * * to assure the maximum rate of production which may be sustained without loss of ultimate recovery of oil or gas, or both, under sound engineering and economic principles, and which is safe for the duration of the activity covered by the approved plan.”